

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes a modified Figure 2 in which the reference numeral for the connector post has been changed to “32” as correctly shown in Figure 1 and as used in the specification, see paragraph [0019]. A copy of the original sheet with the change indicated in red ink is enclosed.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

## REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 14-16, 19 and 20 stand rejected, while claims 6-8, 11-13, 17 and 18 merely were objected to as depending from a rejected claim. This amendment adds new claims 21-23. Therefore, claims 1-23 will be pending after entry of the amendment.

### Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 9-10, 14-16 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Parker, *et al.*

Regarding claims 1-5, claim 1 now states that the plurality of electrohydraulic valves abut a surface of the base plate in which the plurality of openings are located. As clearly shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Parker, *et al.*, electrohydraulic valve 42 is tightly received within a boss 30 of the gasket 28 which extends through the aperture 70 in the base plate 74 and which isolates the valve from contacting the base plate surface in which aperture 70 is located. That additional gasket 28 is required to properly position and seal the valve with respect to the fluid channels of the manifold 22. Thus, the valve assembly in the cited patent does not teach the abutting relationship specified in claim 1.

Furthermore, the bar in claim 1 engages the base plate and the electrohydraulic valves in a manner that permits movement between the base plate and those valves. The rejection merely states that the reference's bar 80 "is inherently flexible enough to allow the valves to move with respect to the apertures 76" in the alleged base plate 74. However, nothing in the Parker, *et al.* patent suggests that flexibility or the ability for the claimed movement.

Quite the contrary, the reference expressly teaches away from providing such characteristics. In the assembled structure shown in Figure 8 of Parker *et al.*, screws 86 secure the stanchions 84 of the bar 80 against the base plate 74 which sandwiches the valves 42 there between. Those stanchions 84 on the bar 80 are in such close proximity to the sockets 82 fastened to the valve terminals 62, that the bar is precluded from flexing enough to allow the motion between the base plate and the valves as stated in claim 1. In addition, the base plate projections 78 engage lugs 64 on each valve 42 to retain the valves and prevent their movement (see column 4, lines 27-34, Figures 2 and 8).

Therefore, the Parker *et al.* reference teaches a structure that inhibits the motion which the presently claimed structure expressly allows to accommodate manufacturing tolerances between the valve assembly and the engine manifold.

Independent claims 9 and 16 have been amended in a similar manner to claim 1 and now to specify that the valves abut a major surface of the base plate. Therefore, claims 9-10, 14-16, and 19-20 are patentable for the same reasons as claim 1.

### **New Claims**

Claim 21 recites that each of the plurality of electrohydraulic valves in claim 16 has a tab extending alongside another major surface of the base plate. This structure is shown in Figure 2 of the application in which each valve 21-23 has a housing 26 that abuts one surface of base plate 12 and has a tab 28 bent alongside the opposite base plate surface, as described in the last five lines of paragraph [0018]. As noted previously with respect to Figure 1 in the Parker, *et al.* patent, its hydraulic valve 14 does not abut any major surface

of the base plate 74 and further does not have a tab extending alongside another major surface of the base plate.

New claims 22 and 23, which depend respectively from claims 1 and 9, recite a similar tab on their electrohydraulic valves.

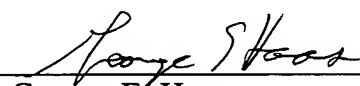
Because this structure relationship is not taught nor suggested by the Parker, *et al.* patent, the new claims are patentable.

### Conclusion

For the reasons given above, claims 1-23 are not anticipated by the device taught in the Parker, *et al.* patent. Therefore, applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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